

In the claims:

1. In a radio communication system having a network part at which a network-copy database is maintained and a mobile node at which a mobile-copy database is maintained, an improvement of apparatus for facilitating placement of data stored at a selected one of the network-copy database and mobile-copy database into a form to facilitate efficient communication thereof pursuant to a synchronization session, said apparatus comprising:

a change list maintained at least at a selected one of the network part and the mobile node and associated with a corresponding selected one of the network-copy database and the mobile-copy database, said change list containing a history of changes made to the

corresponding selected one of the network-copy database and the mobile-copy database;

a change-list coordinator adapted to receive indications of changes made to the corresponding selected one of the network-copy database and the mobile-copy database, said change-list coordinator for coordinating the history of changes contained in said change list such that the history of changes includes non-redundant change listings.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein data maintained at the network-copy database and at the mobile-copy database is formatted into data records, each data record formed of at least one data field, and wherein said change list coordinator coordinates the history of changes such that, for any data record, the change listings note changes, if any, to the at least one data field of the data records and exclude data fields of the data records that are absent changes.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said change list coordinator coordinates the history of changes such that the change listings note, for each data record containing a change, a single resultant data record, in which changes, if any, are cumulated and the single-resultant data record is formed as a result thereof.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the changes to at least one data record comprise a first change to a selected data field thereof and a second change to the selected data

field, and wherein the single resultant data record is formed of a cumulated result of the first change and the at least the second change.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the second change negates the first change and wherein said change-list coordinator further coordinates the history of changes contained in said change list to prevent inclusion in the change list to prevent inclusion in the change list of changes that negate one another.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the changes to at least one data record comprise a first change to a first selected data field thereof and a second change to a second selected data field thereof, and wherein the single resultant data record is formed of the first selected data field and the second selected data field.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the single resultant data record comprises solely the first selected data field and the second selected data field.

20 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the history of changes contained in said change list and coordinated by said change list coordinator are formatted to be free of null terminated values.

25 9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said change list coordinator further comprises a formatter, said formatter for formatting each change listing of the history of changes contained in said change list to be of a selected format.

30 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the selected format by which the formatter of said change list coordinator formats each change listing includes a tag length encoding format.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein each change listing is of at least a first selected change-type of a set of change-types, the change-type defining a tag, the tag contained in the change listing when formatted pursuant to the tag length encoding format.

5 12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein each change listing is of a selected listing length, the history when formatted pursuant to the tag length encoding format.

13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said change listing is free of terminator values separating separate ones of the change listings thereof.

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14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said change listing is of a selected maximum size.

15 15. In a method of communicating in a radio communication system having a network part at which a network copy database is maintained and a mobile node at which a mobile copy database is maintained, an improvement of a method for facilitating placement of data stored at a selected one of the network copy database and mobile copy database into a form to facilitate efficient communication thereof pursuant to a synchronization session, said method comprising:

20 coordinating a history of changes indicative of changes to a selected one of the network copy database and the mobile copy database such that the history of changes includes only non-redundant change listings; and

placing the history of changes coordinated during said operation of coordinating into a change list maintained at a corresponding one of the network part and the mobile node,
25 corresponding to the network copy database and the mobile copy database of which the history of changes is indicative.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein data maintained at the network copy database and at the mobile copy database is formatted into data records, each data record formed of at

least one data field, and wherein coordination performed during said operation of coordinating comprises coordinating the history of changes such that, for any data record, the change listings note changes, if any, to the at least one data field of the data records and exclude data fields of the data records that are absent changes.

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17. The method of claim 16 wherein coordination performed during said operation of coordinating comprises coordinating the history of changes such that, for any data record, the change listings note changes, if any, to the at least one data field of the data records that are absent changes.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the changes to at least one data record comprises a first change to a selected data field thereof and a second change to the selected data field and wherein the single resultant data record is formed of a cumulated result of the first change and the at least the second change.

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19. The method of claim 18 wherein the second change negates the first change and wherein coordination performed during said operation of coordinating further prevents inclusion in the change list changes the negate one another.

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20. The method of claim 15 wherein said operation of coordinating further comprises formatting each change listing into a selected format.